

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claim 14 has been amended to define one aspect of the present invention with greater precision and claims 17 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the rejection of claim 18 in paragraph 2 of the Action. More specifically, claim 14 has been amended so that the defined process specifies that the cationic particulate organic component does not include a benzene ring, and that the inkjet recording sheet is prepared by the process comprising the steps of copolymerizing (A) an alkyl(meth)acrylate and (B) an amino group containing (meth)acrylate monomer to obtain a cationic particulate emulsion, and cast coating a coating composition containing the emulsion on a sheet support. This recitation is supported by the specification such as Examples 1 and 2 ((A) and (B) are used in both Examples) and the passage at page 13, lines 8-13 which discloses that compounds without a benzene ring are preferable since "a compound with a benzene ring may deteriorate anti-yellowing property".¹

The presently claimed invention can provide significant advantages over prior techniques. That is, by using the cationic particulate organic component without a benzene ring on a sheet support of an inkjet recording sheet, which is made from an emulsion which is prepared by copolymerizing (A) an alkyl(meth)acrylate and (B) an amino group containing (meth)acrylate monomer, one can obtain an inkjet sheet with excellent properties such as gloss, ink absorbency, color density, water resistance, and light resistance as well as excellent anti-yellowing property.

¹ It will be further noted from the paragraph of page 16, lines 16 -22 that the amount of monomer (C) can be 0 wt% and therefore, the explicit recitation of this monomer has been omitted from claim 14.

With a proper understanding of the presently claimed invention and an appreciation of the substantial advantages which can be obtained therefrom, those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the present invention is patentable over the prior art set forth in the Official Action. In particular, Published European Patent No. 802,245 discloses cationic fine particles consisting essentially of a crosslinked resin. For instance, the passage at page 3, lines 45-46 specifically states: "When the monofunctional monomer is used, a crosslinking agent or crosslinking oligomer having an acryl group at its molecular chain terminal must be used in combination." In contrast to this specific requirement in the '245 publication, the cationic particulate component of the present invention is prepared by copolymerizing (A) an alkyl(meth)acrylate and (B) an amino group containing (meth)acrylate monomer, which does not provide a crosslinked resin. Moreover, the present invention can provide improvements in various properties such as gloss, ink absorbency, color density, water resistance, light resistance and anti-yellowing. In this regard, the '245 publication is silent with respect to gloss, light resistance and anti-yellowing property. Accordingly, it is without question that the presently claimed invention is patentable over the fair teachings of the '245 publication.

The additional rejection set forth in the Official Action likewise does not detract from the patentability of the presently claimed invention. Published Japanese Application No. 09-300810 only discloses an acrylate copolymer with a benzene ring such as styrene-dimethylaminopropyl acrylate copolymer used in the Examples which is contrary to the aspect of the present invention which specifies the absence of a benzene ring. Furthermore, there is neither reference to anti-yellowing property nor any suggestion of the advantages of using acrylates without a benzene ring for copolymerization. Indeed, by following the teachings of the '810 publication, those of

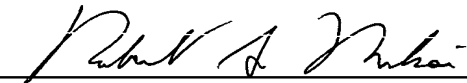
ordinary skill in the art would clearly not be led to the process defined in the claims of record and would instead be led away from the presently claimed invention. Thus, the present invention is also patentable over this reference.

For all of the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that the claims of record are patentable over the cited prior art and therefore request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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